

What is claimed is as follows:

1. A method of sealing a telecommunications connector against airborne contaminants comprising:
 - terminating a fiber optic cable with a fiber optic connector in a clean environment protected against airborne contaminants, with an end of an optical fiber within the cable terminated at a polished end face of a ferrule of the connector;
 - within the clean environment, placing a seal about the ferrule to protect the polished end face of the ferrule including the end of the optical fiber against airborne contaminants;
 - transporting the telecommunications connector to a location where a fiber optic communications linkage is desired; and,
 - removing the seal from the connector and making the fiber optic communications linkage without cleaning the end face.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein placing the seal about the ferrule includes placing the terminated connector within a cover including an open sided box and a lid, the lid sized to fit within the open side of the box and seal an cavity defined by the lid and the box against entry of airborne contaminants and permitting the cable to extend out of the cavity.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein placing seal about the ferrule includes placing a plug about the ferrule to seal the end face from air-borne particles and releasably securing the plug to the connector with an adhesive tape.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein placing the seal about the ferrule includes placing a first end of a sleeve about the ferrule with the end face within an axial opening of the ferrule and inserting a plug into an opposing second end of the sleeve, the sleeve fitting about the ferrule to prevent entry of contaminants into the axial opening through the first end of the sleeve, and the sleeve fitting about the plug to prevent entry of contaminants into the axial opening of the sleeve through the second end of the sleeve.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein placing a seal about the ferrule includes placing a first end of a body about the ferrule with the end face of the ferrule within an axial opening of the body, the axial opening having an opposing second end, the second end covered by a removable adhesive sealing member after the body is placed about the ferrule.

6. A cover assembly for a fiber optic connector comprising:

the fiber optic connector mounted to an end of and terminating a fiber optic cable;

a cover including an open sided box and a lid sized and configured to engage the open side, the box and the lid defining a cavity sized to fit about and receive a fiber optic connector;

the cavity having an open end adapted to receive the optical fiber cable adjacent the end to which the connector is mounted;

wherein the fiber optic connector is within the cavity, the optical fiber cable extends through the open end, the lid engages the open side and seals the cavity from contaminants outside the cavity.

7. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the lid engages the box with a snap-fit connection.

8. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the lid and the box are connected along an edge separate from the open end by a living hinge.

9. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the box includes a strip of resilient deformable material adjacent the open end and the fiber optic cable extends through the open end across the deformable material and the deformable material cooperates with the lid to form a seal about the fiber optic cable.

10. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the lid includes a strip of resilient deformable material adjacent the open end and the fiber optic cable extends through the

open end across the deformable material and the deformable material cooperates with the box to form a seal about the fiber optic cable.

11. The cover assembly of claim 9, wherein the lid includes a second strip of resilient deformable material adjacent the open end, the strip of deformable material engages the second strip of deformable material and the fiber optic cable extends through the open end between the strip and the second strip of deformable material and the deformable material cooperate to form a seal about the fiber optic cable.

12. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the box and the lid are joined to each other by a snap-fit connection about the cavity.

13. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the box and the lid are joined to each other by a heat-sealed edge about the cavity.

14. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the cavity is formed within the box and the lid is a predominantly flat member closing off the open side of the box.

15. The cover assembly of claim 6, wherein a first portion of the cavity is formed by the box and a second portion of the cavity is formed by the lid.

16. A fiber optic connector assembly comprising:

the fiber optic connector mounted to an end of and terminating a fiber optic cable and a ferrule holding an optical fiber from the cable, the ferrule including an end face;

a plug configured to fit about and engage the ferrule of the fiber optic connector, the plug positioned about and engaging the ferrule to seal the end face from air-borne particles; and

an adhesive tape releasably attached to the connector about the plug, holding the plug to the connector.

17. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the plug is made from a thermoplastic elastomer and deforms to fit about the ferrule.
18. The assembly of claim 17, wherein the plug includes a body defining an inner cavity with an opening for insertion of the ferrule within the cavity, the opening including a tapered entry and a ledge positioned between an inner end of the tapered entry and an inner wall of the cavity, the ledge defining an opening smaller than the diameter of the ferrule and the cavity having a diameter generally the same diameter as the ferrule.
19. The assembly of claim 18, wherein the body of the plug includes a larger diameter end opposite the opening and a shoulder is defined between an outer surface of the body and the larger diameter end.
20. A telecommunications connector protective device comprising:
a sleeve with an interior wall defining an axial opening having a first end and an opposing second end;
a plug having a shaft end and an enlarged end opposite the shaft end, the distal end of the shaft defining a mating end;
the sleeve sized and configured to fit about a ferrule of a telecommunications connector received within the axial opening through the first end, with the interior wall sealing against the ferrule to prevent contaminants from entering the axial opening through the first end;
the shaft of the plug sized to be received within the axial opening of the sleeve with the interior wall of the sleeve sealing against the shaft to prevent contaminants from entering the axial opening through the second end.
21. The protective device of claim 20, wherein the mating end of the shaft is sized and configured to match a polished end face of the ferrule of a fiber optic telecommunications connector.
22. A telecommunications connector protective device comprising:

a body including an interior wall defining an axial opening extending from a first end to a second opposing end, the second end of the body including an outwardly extending flange, the axial opening sized to be received about a ferrule of a telecommunications connector extending through the first end of the body, the interior wall sized to fit closely about the ferrule and seal the axial opening against entry of contaminants through the first end of the body; and

an adhesive sealing member sized to be placed across the second end of the axial opening of the body and seal the second end against entry of contaminants into the axial opening.